GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:581
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007
EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made sincere efforts in exploration of natural gas and oil fields in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of regions in which natural gas and oil was explored during the last two years;

(d) the name of the Government agency undertaking this work and the expenditure incurred on these works during the last two years;

(e) whether the private companies are also engaged in exploration of oil and gas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (f) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/ Joint Venture companies are engaged in oil and gas exploration in the country. Government of India is continuously offering exploration blocks to National Oil Companies, private & foreign companies through bidding rounds under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Government of India has awarded 162 exploration blocks in six bidding rounds under NELP. 43 oil and gas discoveries have been made. Development plan/ appraisal of oil and gas discoveries are in progress.

Exploration expenditure incurred by ONGC and OIL in last 2 years was Rs. 4210.46 crore and Rs. 968.24 crore respectively. Under NELP, Private/Joint Venture companies have invested about US$ 2.5 billion (Rs. 10,000 crore).

In last 2 years, exploration activities have been under way in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal as well as in eastern and western offshore areas.

To supplement the exploration efforts, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has carried out geo-scientific surveys in last two years in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Mizoram, and areas of Kutch Basin, Saurashtra region, Narmada Cambay and Deccan Syncline region of central India.